

January 25, 2006

Transmitted Via Electronic Submission

FCC COMMENT DEPARTMENT

To whom it concerns:

**Comments in Response to Localism Notice of Proposed Rulemaking MB
Docket No. 04-233**

I submit the following comments in response to the Localism Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (the "NPRM"), released Jan. 24, 2008, in MB Docket No. 04-233.

I recently was shocked that the FCC is even considering new rules regarding radio stations that would force broadcasters, as I understand, to significantly alter the ability to operate as they PAY to do. I feel as if this is a desperate attempt for groups such as gay and lesbian, atheist, and secular humanists to infiltrate and destroy Christian radio. First if you institute local advisory boards these and other groups like them can demand representation on a station that I listen to because it takes out the views of those groups. I have the right to turn these stations on and I have the right to turn them off just like the rest of the nation and world. Most importantly however is my right to religious freedom. Tell me how that will be protected by these new rules proposed. I sometimes can not get to church so I tune into a sermon on the radio. The message being broadcasted is a sermon from a pulpit at a church most of the time and the rest of the time they use other forms of programming to promote ethics, morality, and family unity. These lessons taught under the freedom many have died for, is one of the only ways some people can get the message they so desperately want and need in this world today. Many of the proposed new regulations would do more harm than good to not just Christian stations but to all stations across the country. Many important radio programs from smaller stations would be forced to shut down due to the forced additional costs and legal wrangling that could and will occur when license renewals are being processed. I have lived in an area where our community had a local small station start and it was a great thing. Lots of positive community involvement and support came through that station. You will KILL anything like that with these proposals. Do not take away my freedom of religion, speech and pursuit of happiness. I emphatically feel any new FCC rules, policies or procedures must not violate all Americans First Amendment rights. A number of proposals discussed in the NPRM, if enacted, would do so – and must not be adopted.

(1) The FCC must not force radio stations, especially religious broadcasters, to take advice from people who do not share nor pay for their values. The NPRM's proposed advisory board proposals would impose such unconstitutional mandates. Religious broadcasters who resist advice from those who don't share their values could face increased harassment, complaints and even loss of license for choosing to follow their own consciences, rather than allowing incompatible viewpoints to shape their programming. The First Amendment prohibits government, including the FCC, from dictating what viewpoints a broadcaster, Particularly a religious broadcaster must present.

(2) The FCC must not turn every radio station into a public forum where anyone and everyone have rights to air time. Proposed public access requirements would do so – even if a religious broadcaster conscientiously objects to the message. The First Amendment forbids imposition of message delivery mandates on any religion.

(3) The FCC must not force revelation of specific editorial decision-making information. The choice of programming, especially religious programming, is not properly dictated by any government agency – and proposals to force reporting on such things as who produced what programs would intrude on constitutionally-protected editorial choices.

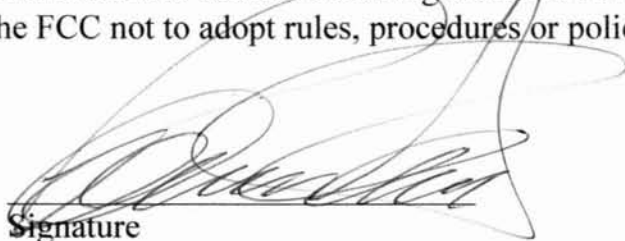
(4) The FCC must not establish a two-tiered renewal system in which certain licensees would be automatically barred from routine renewal application processing. The proposed mandatory special renewal review of certain classes of applicants by the Commissioners themselves would amount to coercion of religious broadcasters. Those who stay true to their consciences and present only the messages they correspond to their beliefs could face long, expensive and potentially ruinous renewal proceedings.

(5) Many Christian broadcasters operate on tight budgets, as do many smaller market secular stations. Keeping the electricity flowing is often a challenge, yet the Commission proposes to further squeeze niche and smaller market broadcasters, by substantially raising costs in two ways:

- (a) by requiring staff presence whenever a station is on the air
- (b) by further restricting main studio location choices.

Raising costs with these proposals would force service cutbacks creating curtailed service which is contrary to the public interest. I urge the FCC not to adopt rules, procedures or policies discussed above.

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